

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1-3 and presented claims 4-12 to clarify the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants submit herewith replacement drawings to which labels have been added to unlabeled boxes and an externally controlled unit. Applicants respectfully request approval of the replacement drawings and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent publication 2004/0056781 to Rix et al. in view of U.S. patent 5,579,002 to Iggyulden et al.

The combination of Rix et al. and Iggyulden et al. does not suggest the claimed invention since, among other things, the combination does not suggest a control panel including at least one control member including a readily movable module detachably located at the front surface of the control panel, wherein the at least one moveable module actively communicates with a central unit configured to influence/control external units. Rather, Rix et al. suggests input members that passively communicate with a communication surface that generates a carrier signal. Without the carrier signal, the input members do not function since communication between the input members and the base depends upon modulation of the carrier signal by the input members. On the other hand, the system according to the claimed invention includes at

least one moveable module that actively communicates with a central unit.

Iggulden et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Rix et al. Along these lines, Iggulden et al. suggests keys 110 that do not include any communication means. The keys are only meant to engage elements of a circuit board contained in a device. Therefore, Iggulden et al. also does not suggest at least one moveable module that actively communicates with a central unit as in the claimed invention.

In view of the above, the references relied upon in the office action do not suggest patentable features of the claimed invention. Therefore, the references relied upon in the office action, whether considered alone or in combination, do not anticipate the claimed invention or make the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based on the cited references.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application and issuance of the notice of allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit

overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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